

The SWORD of the LORD

"And they cried, The Sword of the Lord, and of Gideon." Judges 7:20

Edited by JOHN R. RICE.

OFFICE: 512 WEST FRANKLIN STREET, WHEATON, ILLINOIS

An Independent Religious Weekly, Standing for the Verbal Inspiration of the Bible, the Deity of Christ, His Blood Atonement, Salvation by Faith, New Testament Soul Winning and the Premillennial Return of Christ. Opposes Sin, Modernism, and Denominational Overlordship

VOLUME VIII, No. 10

WHEATON, ILLINOIS, FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 1941

\$1.00 PER YEAR

HOW FELIX LOST HIS SOUL

BY DR. JOHN R. RICE

(Preached Friday, September 12, 1941, at Grand Opera House, over WJJD, Chicago, Illinois, on Christian Business Men's Program. Stenographically reported.)

Now in Acts chapter 24 I will read you a few verses about how Felix lost his soul. More people know more about Felix the cat than they do about Felix in the Bible, but I am reading about Felix in the Bible, beginning with Acts 24:24 ff. (Now Paul is in jail).

"And after certain days, when Felix came with his wife Drusilla, which was a Jewess, he sent for Paul, and heard him concerning the faith in Christ.

"And as he reasoned of righteousness, temperance and judgment to come, Felix trembled, and answered, Go thy way for this time; when I have a convenient season, I will call for thee.

"He hoped also that money should have been given him of Paul, that he might loose him: wherefore he sent for him the oftener, and communed with him.

"But after two years Porcius Festus came into Felix' room: and Felix, willing to shew the Jews a pleasure, left Paul bound."

Now as you look on your Bibles I want to call to your attention about five matters that come to our attention in this startling case that ended in a man going to Hell who was convicted and might have been saved.

Speak Boldly for Christ When It Is Hard

First of all, I want you to notice that Paul preached Christ when it was hard. You know these days we shun urging people to accept Christ, among bold hard cases. God bless my preacher brethren. I want their love and their prayers. I love preachers, but oh, how concerned I am that preachers shall be men bold for God! Now Paul had chains on him and Felix the governor came and said, "What's the matter with this criminal? What are we going to do with him?" Paul stood

Write for Print

28 Beautiful Rewards for Best Letters

Here is a way you can help *The Sword of the Lord*, can give your testimony to thousands, and receive a lovely reward for your time. Read the editor's book, "And God Remembered..." And Other Favorite Messages. Then write about 200 words telling which chapter you like best, and why. Tell us how one chapter led a soul to Christ, or how another message cleared up some precious Scriptural truth for you or for a friend, or how the chapter on "Where Is the Lord God of Elijah" or "The Exceeding Abundantly Able God" led to a rich increase in fruitful, believing prayer. Or tell anything else that you want to. Make it about 200 words, preferably not more. Put your name and address on the same sheet and mail it to The Sword of the Lord, 512 West Franklin Street, Wheaton, Illinois.

For the best letter, *The Sword of the Lord* will give an \$8.50 Scofield Reference Bible, Morocco (CONTINUED ON PAGE FOUR)

up and preached Christ to him instead of pleading for release and got him so interested he said, "Wait a minute, a little later when I have more time, I will hear you again of this matter," and the next time he came to talk, he may have wanted Paul to tell him how he had got in jail and how he was a Roman citizen and about the accusation. But Paul preached Christ and Felix heard him. Paul preached Christ when it was hard.

You know nearly everybody here could preach Christ if you are in a publicly announced service, but you don't get out on the street and run people down for God. And if you get in jail, you don't preach to the traffic cop or to the warden in the jail. No, you are entirely too nice, these days preachers are, to get in jail. If we were the kind of preachers we ought to be, we would sometimes land in jail, and then we

(CONTINUED ON PAGE FOUR)

Sword of the Lord Supper

Plans Changed and Enlarged; Free Supper for All at Wheaton Bible Church, Cross and Union Streets, Wheaton, September 27th

From Houston, Texas, came application for tickets for *The Sword of the Lord* banquet, and from a number of states others have bought tickets or made reservations. However, plans have been changed and enlarged. Because of the difficulty of serving an elaborate banquet on Saturday night, and the lack of room, we have decided to serve a simple, hearty supper free to all who come, but not to serve it banquet style. There will be hot sandwiches, salads, and drinks, all everybody can eat, and it will be free. We feel that we could not charge a dollar for such a simple meal served cafeteria style, and a lesser amount would be inconvenient to send. And besides, we would prefer to have it with-

(CONTINUED ON PAGE THREE)

Christ, The Good Shepherd

BY EVANGELIST CHARLES E. FULLER

(Preached on Old Fashioned Revival Hour, September 7, 1941.)



And now with your Bibles open to the 10th chapter of John, I want you to notice verses 14 and 15:

"I am the good shepherd, and know my sheep, and am known of mine. As the Father knoweth me even so know I the Father: and I lay down my life for the sheep."

The Pharisees, Wicked Shepherds

In order that you might rightly understand the background of that statement by the Lord Jesus, "I am the good shepherd," I want to say this, that in those verses 11 to 21 (which section, by the way, deals with Christ as the good Shepherd) the Holy Spirit paints a series of word pictures depicting the spiritual conditions of the Pharisees who were the religious leaders of that day, and who were shepherds of God's sheep, Israel. In verse 5 these Pharisees are called strangers. In verse 8 they are called thieves and robbers. In verses 12 and 13 they are called wolves and hirelings, etc. In chapter 9 these Pharisees, hirelings, thieves, and robbers showed their true characters, that their hearts were full of oppression and violence in casting out the poor, blind beggar whom Christ healed. In fact, if you wanted to see a commentary on these two chapters, go back to the 34th chapter of Ezekiel, when centuries before the Holy Spirit wrote down just exactly what would happen; for there we find these words,

"Son of man, prophesy against the shepherds of Israel, prophesy, and say unto them, Thus saith the Lord God unto the shepherds; Woe be to the shepherds of Israel that do feed themselves! should not the shepherds feed the flock? Ye eat the fat, and ye clothe you with the wool, ye kill them that are fed: but ye feed not the flock. The diseased have ye not strengthened, neither have ye healed that which was sick, neither have ye bound up that which was broken, neither have ye brought again that which was driven away, neither have ye sought that which was lost; but with force and with cruelty have ye ruled them. And they were scattered, because there is no shepherd: and they became meat to all the beasts of the field, when they were scattered. My sheep wandered through all the mountains, and upon every high hill: yea, my flock was scattered upon all the face of the earth, and none did search or seek after them."

(CONTINUED ON PAGE THREE)

Giving God A Chance

BY JOE H. HANKINS, D.D.

(Preached at the First Baptist Church, Little Rock, Arkansas, Sunday morning, August 31, 1941, and stenographically reported.)

TEXT: II Kings 4:2: "And Elisha said unto her, What shall I do for thee? tell me, what thou hast in thy house? And she said, Thine handmaid hath not anything in the house, save a pot of oil."

There are many lessons in this story. God has told us in the New Testament that these things that happened to the people about whom He has written in the Old Testament happened to them for examples to us and for our instruction. Every one of these stories has a spiritual lesson that God would have us to get by which our own lives may be strengthened and by which we may profit.

One of the things in this story is that when this woman got into trouble and distress came she knew where to go for help. She had no idea how God would solve her problem, neither was she concerned about that—that is God's part of it—but she did believe that God had the solution of her problem. I believe with all my heart that if

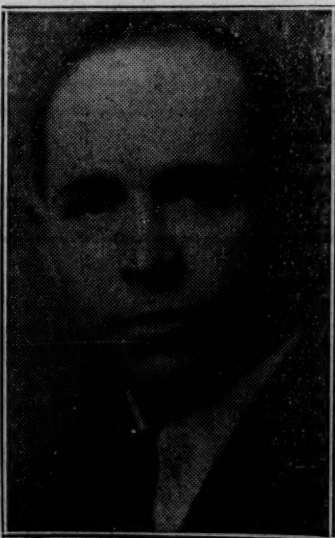
God has a chance, He would solve every problem in your lives. I know that the Bible teaches that God is concerned about everything in the life of His children. God's Word says, "Don't worry about anything; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God," and you will find help in every time of need. I think one of the greatest sins of which God's children are guilty is the sin of wanting to walk always by sight, thereby not giving God a chance to demonstrate His power, and His willingness to lead through every difficulty of life—that though the sun has gone out in the sky and we walk in total darkness, we need not be afraid to put our hand in His and walk on by faith, believing that God knows the way out and will lead the way out for His child. God is concerned when sorrows come into our lives. So do not chafe, worry and fret when these disappointments and sorrows come, but give God a chance and He will see to it that "all things work together for good to them that love God." In the midst of your deepest sorrows, most severe trials and most painful losses, you will see the mighty hand of God, and according to the divine purpose and through the wisdom and love of God you will see them unfold somehow to God's glory and to your enrichment. Yes, I believe that God will make all things (and when God says ALL, He means all), I believe that God will, if given a chance in my life and in yours, make all things work for our good and for His glory. I grant you that sometimes it is hard to understand many of the things that come to us in life because we are so finite, but, thank God, we are serving a God who knows the end from the beginning; who knows all things and understands all things; who is too loving ever to be unkind, too wise ever to make a mistake and too good ever to do wrong. What

we need is to give God a chance, for God is concerned.

God is concerned about the material needs of His children. Sometimes we evidently do not think so, and sometimes we seem to take that part in our hands and that the whole thing depends upon us. But the answer comes back from the Word of God, "Seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you." O God give us faith to believe it! Friend, faith in God; faith in His love; faith in His wisdom; faith in His power; faith in His concern for His own will drive every cloud out of life, will lighten every sorrow and even turn your sorrows into joys and your defeats into victories. This woman knew where to go, and immediately when the crisis arose she sought out the man of God.

She also felt she had a right to come to God. When she came to the man of God she felt in her heart that God would supply her need because she had a good ground upon which to expect God to do it. I want you to see it. She based her whole plea upon one thing in their lives, "Thou knowest that thy servant did fear the Lord." In other words, "We have a home that honors God and we have tried to serve, and be true to God." She felt that she had a right to come. Listen beloved if God has been put first in your home; if you have a God-honoring home; if you will live a God-honoring and God-fearing life; if you walk after the will of God, you do have the right given to you by the Father, himself, to come and make your requests known to God. And anything that is big enough to worry about is big enough to talk to your Father about. You not only have the right but the assurance that when you come you will be heard. Then why is it that so many of us in the crises of life go with our appeals

(CONTINUED ON PAGE TWO)



DR. JOE HENRY HANKINS

THE SWORD OF THE LORD
\$1.00 a year, 3 years for \$2.00.
512 W. FRANKLIN WHEATON, ILL.

HEAR!

Dr. H. A. Ironside
Evangelist John R. Rice
Cartoonist Phil Saint

Special musical numbers, testimonies, famous Christian men introduced at

Sword of the Lord Supper
Wheaton Bible Church
Union and Cross Streets
6:30 P.M., Saturday, September 27th. Be on time. Supper free, but write or phone for reservations at once.

GIVING GOD A CHANCE

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE)

to God and seem to get nowhere? Why is it that when times of distress and sorrow and need come we rush to God and beseege the throne of grace and our cries seem to fall on deaf ears? I tell you truly when I first started preaching I all but had my faith shaken because of some of the things I witnessed. I saw the people of God when their loved ones had passed away sit in the place of mourning and find no help or comfort. I saw them stand by the casket of their loved ones, go all to pieces in their sorrow. I saw them frantic, heart-broken and prostrate in their grief. I saw them oftentimes stand by the casket and faint and scream and pull their hair calling upon God and seem to find no comfort or solace. I remembered that the Lord said, "I will not leave you comfortless..." "My grace is sufficient for you." I remembered that He promised to send another Comforter; that He would bind up the broken-hearted, and that in the place of sorrow He would pour in the oil of gladness, and our very sorrows would be turned into joy. I said, "Isn't God keeping that promise? why doesn't God comfort these people? They seem to find no more comfort, solace, or help in their grief than the world finds, and they act just like the ungodly crowd that stand in the same place. Then I began to examine the circumstances and think more seriously and to pray. I found this answer. Instead of this crowd putting God first in their lives, they had pushed God off to one side—off on a side-track in their lives. They had taken their affairs in their own hands and had forgotten God—pushed God to one side when the sun was shining and everything was going smoothly, and had given God no serious thought when everything was all right. But when the storms came they tried to give God the rush act. Beloved you can't do that. You can't use God just as a convenience or like a spare tire on an automobile. That is the way most professing Christians treat God—push Him off to the back side when all is fine and forget all about Him being there. When storms, sorrows, disappointments, reverses, and crises come, then they make a scramble for the spare tire and it isn't there. You can't treat God that way. This woman said to Elijah, "You know how we have served the Lord—how we have been tied on to God, and now we have come to God with our need and to lay our case before Him."

There is also a very striking lesson to me about Elijah's question to her. After he asked her what he could do for her, he said, "What hast thou in the house?" Then the woman came very near doing exactly what so many of us do and that is to say, "Not a thing—there's not a thing." But on second thought she remembered that there was a little pot of oil, and the little pot of oil is exactly what God wanted, and exactly the thing she was about to overlook. She was about to say, "I don't have anything." O hear me this morning—and here's the thought I pray God may grip every one of our hearts when it comes to the matter of our service for God and our lives counting for Him; when it comes to the matter of doing things in the service of the Lord and finding a place to fill for His glory, how many of God's redeemed are guilty immediately when they face the problem—the call of God—how many say, "I haven't a thing I can't do it." I have heard that in the last few days until I am sick at heart. The Sunday School superintendent and

I have been trying to make up our faculty for another year, and we have approached this member of the church after praying and feeling God would have this person take a place of responsibility, and immediately he says, "I can't; I couldn't teach a class; I couldn't superintendent a department; I don't have the ability." Listen friend, there is something back there in your life that God can gloriously use if He has a chance. O give God a chance!

If God has a chance it doesn't take much for God to work with. Dr. Gambrell used to say, in his quaint way, "God Almighty can hit a mighty straight lick with a mighty crooked stick, if God has control of the stick." O God can take the weakest, the least of us and, if He can possess and have control of the little that we have, He can do great things. Think of that little pot of oil in that woman's kitchen—maybe there was just enough to knead dough to cook one meal—just about all gone perhaps, but that little pot of oil plus God is enough to pay the debt and set the children free from the bondman. Thank God, He never stops just at our need. She had asked that the debt be paid. His grace goes beyond. He said, "Go, sell the oil, and pay thy debt, and live thou and thy children of the rest." What God needs is a chance.

One of the best Sunday school teachers I have ever had was one of the most poorly equipped from any standpoint you can imagine. That precious woman couldn't write so that anybody could read it. I have received letters from her and it was like trying to decipher Egyptian hieroglyphics. She couldn't spell three and four-letter words. Bless her heart, she couldn't help it. She hadn't had a chance to get an education, and she butchered the king's English as badly as anybody I ever heard speak. But that woman loved the Lord—her soul was afire for God and she loved lost souls with a passion that you seldom find. We had a class of ten-year old boys in our Junior department, and couldn't find a man teacher who would take them. It was a group of unruly boys, hard to manage, full of life and always doing the wrong thing. I went on my knees and began to pray that God would send somebody to take that class, and God put this woman on my heart. When I told the superintendent, he laughed and said, "Why she couldn't do that at all." I said, "God says she is the one for that class—give her a trial." We placed her with that class of ten-year-old boys. There were nine unsaved boys in that class, and it was just two months until Promotion Day, but on that day—two months from the time she took the class—she promoted those boys and every one of them had been baptized into the church before promotion day came. And for the rest of the time I was pastor there—five years, I believe—she taught ten-year-old boys and she had the best class in the whole Sunday school, and never in the five years' time did a single boy go out of that class unsaved. I tell you friend, it doesn't take much for God to work with if He has a chance. It is easy to say, "I can't—I can't." It is so easy to give up and quit and say, "I don't have the proper cooperation." If you had been in the superintendent's and pastor's place for the last few weeks I am afraid you would all quit. Anybody can quit, but it takes faith in God, love for God and for His cause, love for a lost world, devotion to the task, willingness to sacrifice, to stay on and keep on staying on when the going's hard and when you have to go alone. But remember you do not have to go alone—there is a hand pierced with the nails that is always there and you will never have to walk alone. What we need is to give God a chance. It isn't how much you have; it isn't what you say; it is the Spirit of God in the heart back of what you do and say that gets results.

The most effective prayer I ever heard was just one sentence. Dr. Finley Gibson was holding a meeting at Ouachita College, and we were praying for the salvation of the football squad—only four out of that group were saved. The meeting had gone on for two weeks

and not a one had been saved. On Saturday night the left halfback on that team was saved. He had been one of the most wicked boys on the team. I have never heard a boy swear like he could. He was reared an orphan in Southwest Texas on a cattle ranch in an ungodly atmosphere, without a Christian home or Christian influence—did not know anything about praying or religion and cared nothing about God. But God got hold of him that Saturday night and he was saved. The next morning at Sunday school our teacher, Mrs. Barrs, the most godly woman I have ever known said, "This morning we are not going to have our lesson, we are going to pray for the football boys to be saved." She said, "I don't know which one of you would like to lead this prayer—will some one volunteer?" That boy that was saved the night before lifted his hand. Then she said, "Boys, let's get down on our knees." The boy who volunteered to pray didn't know how to start. He had never been taught to pray and didn't know what to say. We waited there on our knees—all was so quiet, not a sound, until minutes seemed to become hours. After a while the boy began to groan in his soul, but still couldn't say a word—just did not know how to start. After a while he fell right down in the aisle on his face and began to sob like a broken hearted child, and between his sobs he said these words, "Lord, you know what we want." Then he just broke all to pieces and couldn't say another word. But that prayer from a broken heart touched those unsaved football boys and I saw them walk down the aisle and lift that halfback off the floor and set him on his feet, and put their arms around him and weep while seven of them confessed Christ. Hear me! What we need is to give God a chance. Remember that it doesn't take much for God to do a mighty work with.

"Moses, what is that in your hand?" "Just a shepherd's rod." Turn it over to God, and take it in the name of God and go into Egypt. Moses stretches that rod out over Egypt—in Moses' hand it is just a shepherd's crook, but in the hand of God it is the rod of God that delivers three million souls from the bondage of Egypt, opens the Red Sea, and smites the rock and brings out living water.

"Samson what is that lying by the roadside?" It is only the jawbone of an ass that has died—his carcass has fallen to pieces and his bones are bleaching by the roadside. "Samson, take it and go in the name of the Lord." In the hand of Samson or lying by the roadside it is just a bleached bone, discarded from a useless carcass, but in the hand of God and with the power of God behind it before the sun sets Israel has been delivered and a thousand of the enemy lay dead on the hillside, and the cause of God has been saved.

"David, what is in your hand?" "Just a little boy's slingshot and three small round white pebbles." But David is crossing the brook and is, facing the enemy of God unafraid. There is a mighty towering giant on the other side laughing and making fun like he was an insignificant little cur. But David said, "I am not come to thee in mine own strength; but I come to thee in the name of the Lord of hosts, and God will show you that there is still a God on the throne." In the hand of David is was just a little boy's sling shot, but when in the name of God, he puts the white stone in and begins whirling it around his head, and lets it go, it drives straight into the forehead of the most blatant enemy God has, and he lies there dead. Soon his head is severed from his body and placed on a pole, and Israel is at last delivered. We need to remember that it is "not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the Lord of hosts." We need to remember that our resources are in God. We need to remember that when we say, "I can't," it means just one thing—a lack of faith in our God. It isn't presumption to say, "I can." Listen to Paul, "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me." In other words, "I CAN face prisons; I CAN face shipwrecks; I CAN face perils; I CAN face the jails of the heathen; I CAN come out victorious—more than conquer—over it all through Christ who strengthens me." In my weakness I am made strong. When I am

Contest Letters

This week we publish two letters to start the ball rolling in the contest now on. Readers of the editor's book, "AND GOD REMEMBERED..." And Other Favorite Sermons are to write approximately 200 words about the book. We suggest that you select a chapter and tell why you like that chapter best, but any letter about the book will be considered.

These two letters are not eligible for prizes, since Miss Shappard and Mrs. Nutting both work for *The Sword of the Lord*. However, these testimonies will help others; and we are glad to print them.

So many have written to tell us of blessings received through this beautiful book, so write us again more definitely and allow us to print it in this contest. Here are the two sample letters:

"A New Vision of Christ"

"Dear Contest Editor:

"I am happy to tell you the great joy that has come to me through the sermons published in the book, 'And God Remembered...' It is a joy to know that as God remembered His promises and fulfilled them to His children in olden times, so in the same way He keeps His blessed promises to us, who are His today. The sermon 'Where Is the Lord God of Elijah?' has been a special blessing to me. We as Christians today have difficulties that seem as impossible as the crossing of a swollen river, yet we have the same God, with the same power, as Elijah had. And He loves us just as much and is just as willing to help as was the God of Elijah.

"And, I can do all things through Christ" when I realize His power after reading 'The Exceeding Abundantly Able God.'

"But when I read the sermon

thrust upon the resources of Christ. When all human help fails, I still have God and can still go through to victory. O what God needs is a chance!

One of the greatest soul winners I ever saw had the least in natural equipment and preparation. He was the janitor in the church at Wellington, Texas, working for \$40 a month trying to support a family. He had nothing in the world in the way of an education or preparation. Brother Clyde, who was the pastor, said, "That man is worth more to me than half this church. When I go down in the basement of my church early Sunday morning, I see Bob down there in a room alone on his knees." Then he said, "Every Sunday morning when Bob leaves the basement there is a great big wet spot on the floor where Bob has wet it with his tears praying for his pastor, Sunday school superintendent, deacons, the church, and the lost. His ministry of intercession is worth more to me than half this church." We need to remember that there is a beautiful ministry of intercession open to every child of God. It is one of the most effective of all fields of service. God knows we need intercession more than anything I know of. It is said of John Wesley that he carried an old man with him every where he went who would do nothing but steal away and pray while John Wesley preached the gospel. All through the sermon that old man was on his knees interceding.

It is said that when Charles G. Finney went to Syracuse, New York he had the greatest single evangelistic campaign of his great ministry—in one single campaign there were 150,000 souls saved. One night when Finney was tired and worn out he thought he would take a walk around the edge of town after service, and as he did he heard a voice in prayer coming from among those huts. He stopped and listened and he heard that voice call his name in prayer. He slipped over to that hut and looked through the window and saw an old man with long grey beard and a pair of crutches leaning on a chair. He was on his knees praying for that meeting. Finney said his prayer was something like this: "O Lord, you know how long I have prayed that you would send conviction to this wicked city: O God I believe the hour has come; I believe that your man is in our midst. Lord God hear my cry of all these years, and pour out your Spirit upon Syracuse." God did hear and 150,000 came home to Christ. What God needs with you and me is a chance. "What hast thou in the house?"

'Behold the Man,' I get a new vision of a Christ Who loved me enough to leave Heaven with all its glory, walk this earth as a lowly man of sorrow and die the terrible death on the cross, with its suffering and shame, all because I was a sinner and needed a Saviour.

"It arouses within me a greater love and a new determination to show this Christ to others for whom He died also.

"Sincerely,
(Signed) "Mrs. R. C. Nutting"

Likes Best "Behold the Man"

"Dear Contest Editor:

"Praise is in my heart for wonderful blessings received from the book, 'And God Remembered...'—praise for a deeper realization that God remembers me; for new faith from the messages 'Where Is the Lord God of Elijah?' and 'The Exceeding Abundantly Able God'; for the wonderful opportunity that is mine of coming boldly to the throne of God to obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need since the veil was rent in twain, told about in message entitled 'The Torn Veil'; for new and startling truth revealed in the message, 'Tears in Heaven' and for the new purpose in my heart to live for Christ in such a way that there will be less tears by those in Heaven for sins on the earth, less tears by those there for sinners going to Hell; less tears of my own when I get to Heaven for my sins and failures here.

"But there is praise I cannot fully express for sweetness and comfort that came from the message that was the greatest blessing, the message, 'Behold the Man!' Christ became a man for us! Every temptation I have ever felt, He felt, too. The loneliness of heart I feel, He felt to a far greater extent. If I am ever weary, He was more weary. And, praise His name, though He never sinned or failed in any way, and though He does not take up for my sins, HE UNDERSTANDS and forgives. And, wonderful thought! the power of the same Holy Spirit by which He won every victory, I can have to help me every hour of the day!

"Yours in Christ,
(Signed) "Fairy Shappard"

MAKING SERMONS

(A young minister's question, "How do you go about preparing sermons?" led to the personal letter here printed, with the hope it may be suggestive.)

I do not have much time to describe how I go about making sermons. However, in general, I start one of two ways. The first way is when I feel a special need among people then I begin to search the Scriptures and find everything I can on that subject and pray the Lord to settle my mind on some Scripture that will fit. The second way is, I begin with the Scripture and prayerfully examine all it has to say and try to preach on the main thought in a certain passage of probably several verses.

A specially fine way for a beginner to preach is in one or two verses, simply dividing up the Scripture, and preaching according to the outline the verse gives itself. For instance, Psalm 126:6 can be divided up as follows:

1. "He that goeth forth" or the "go" in soul-winning.
2. "And weepeth," the broken heart in soul-winning.
3. "Bearing precious seed," or the Word of God in soul-winning.
4. "Shall doubtless come again, . . . bringing his sheaves with him," or the certainty of results when you go God's way.
5. "Come again with rejoicing" or the soul-winner's joy and reward.

You can make a fine sermon on that outline which God gives. Another verse that lends itself easily to preaching is Isaiah 53:6. You can divide it under three main heads:

- I. The universal fact of sin, "All we like sheep have gone astray."
 - a. All
 - b. Like sheep
 - II. The nature of sin, self-will, rebellion. "We have turned every one to his own way."
 - III. Christ paid for all of our sins, "The Lord hath laid on Him the iniquity of us all."
- Show there that the only chance for wilful and depraved sinners is

(CONTINUED ON PAGE FOUR)

THE SWORD OF THE LORD

Entered as second-class matter, April 26, 1940, at the post office at Wheaton, Illinois, under the Act of March 3, 1897.

EVANGELIST JOHN R. RICE,
EDITOR AND PUBLISHER

THE SWORD OF THE LORD
Published Weekly at 512 West
Franklin Street, Wheaton, Illinois

Subscription Price: \$1.00 a year;
3 years, \$2.00
Canada and Foreign Countries:
\$1.25 a year; 3 years, \$3.00.

Sword Supper

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE)

out any regular charge. So all will be welcomed, and by serving cafeteria style, we believe we can take care of the crowd we think will fill the Wheaton Bible Church which seats 600. Remember, that is Saturday night, September 27th.

By a change in plans we are having the supper at the Wheaton Bible Church, Rev. J. C. Macaulay, pastor. We are grateful for this kindly cooperation on their part. Money will be returned to those who have sent a dollar for the tickets. However, WE WANT TO HEAR FROM EVERYONE WHO IS COMING. PLEASE SEND A POST CARD OR LETTER AT ONCE, TELLING US YOU EXPECT TO BE PRESENT FOR THE SWORD OF THE LORD SUPPER, SATURDAY NIGHT, SEPTEMBER 27. We want to know how much food to prepare, so you will help us greatly by writing at once.

We believe the expense will be met altogether by a free will offering at the service. And we would prefer not to feel that one must pay to eat with us and to enjoy the blessed program which is planned.

Part of the Program

On the program will be several most attractive features.

Dr. H. A. Ironside, pastor of Moody Memorial Church, Chicago, will be the principal speaker. This great man of God, the author of so many books, the editor of a weekly paper, contributor to the *Sword of the Lord*, the pastor of the greatest independent fundamental church in the world, the successor of D. L. Moody—how blessed is his ministry! You will want to hear him, I am sure.

Rev. Phil Saint, the artist-author of "Gary—A Christian at College," the series of Christian story strips that has recently appeared in *The Sword of the Lord*, will give a twenty-minute message illustrated by Christian cartoons which he will draw on large sheets before the audience, talking as he works.

Editor John R. Rice will read letters telling of conversions, will give a report of the unusual book ministry of *The Sword of the Lord* Publishers, which has published some twelve and a half millions of pages of the editor's books and pamphlets alone within the last year, will tell how God has given \$32,750 for gospel printing in ten years.

There will be testimonies from those blessed by *The Sword of the Lord*. Be ready!

Prominent Christian workers whom you have long wanted to know will be present and introduced.

There will be choruses, special music, prayers, and we earnestly hope that some unsaved friends will come and be saved.

Remember the following facts:

TIME: 6:30 p.m., Saturday, September 27.

PLACE: Wheaton Bible Church, Union and Cross Streets, Wheaton, Illinois.

And remember that there is no charge either for the supper or the program.

If God lays it on your heart to be here Saturday to help prepare the meal, please write us.

And if you are coming to the supper and program, send us a card or letter, or telephone saying we can count on you. We must know how much food to prepare. By all means let us know by Friday morning, September 26th. Our phone number is 2610 Wheaton, and the address is 512 West Franklin Street.

Christ, the Good Shepherd

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE)

Therefore, ye shepherd, hear the word of the Lord; As I live, saith the Lord God, surely because my flock became a prey, and my flock became meat to every beast of the field, because there was no shepherd, neither did my shepherds search for my flock, but the shepherds fed themselves, and fed not my flock; Therefore, O ye shepherds, hear the word of the Lord; thus saith the Lord God; Behold, I am against the shepherds; and I will require my flock at their hand, and cause them to cease from feeding the flock; neither shall the shepherds feed themselves any more; for I will deliver my flock from their mouth, that they may not be meat for them."

Now, in John, chapters 9 and 10, we find the actual fulfillment of that prophecy in the thirty-fourth of Ezekiel, but if time permitted we could go on further in that thirty-fourth chapter of Ezekiel and see there in contrast the Lord Jesus Christ, the good Shepherd, for how beautifully the Holy Spirit portrays Him in prophecy in the balance of that thirty-fourth chapter. Now, one of the first things we learn about Christ in the thirteenth and fourteenth verses of the tenth chapter of John is this: Christ said, "I am the good shepherd."

Old Testament Shepherds Typifying Christ

One of the finest ways to learn about the shepherd phase of Christ is to study the Old Testament foreshadows, commonly called types. My, I love to study types! As we thumb the pages of the Old Testament we find five Old Testament characters spoken of as shepherds, and in studying the lives of these five men, we find every one brings out an outstanding point in reference to Christ the good Shepherd. The first we find in the fourth chapter of Genesis, verse two, in reference to Abel. We are told he was the keeper of the sheep, and the distinct application of the typical truth Abel portrays is the death of this shepherd, slain by wicked hands at the hand of his brother, according to the flesh. And remember this, Peter stands up at the day of Pentecost and said, "Ye men of Israel, hear these words," and he goes on to tell about Christ, and he says, "Him, being delivered by the determinate council and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain." And so as Abel was slain by his brother Cain, Christ was slain by his brethren in the flesh, Israel.

And then turning to the thirtieth chapter of Genesis we find the next reference to shepherds in the life of Jacob. We are told of his care for the sheep, and God tells us to cast all our care on Christ, our Shepherd, for he careth for you. And in the thirty-seventh chapter of Genesis the next reference is in the life of Joseph. There the prominent thing about this is that he fed the flock, and Christ our Shepherd knows how to feed the flock. Then turning over to the book of Exodus, in the second chapter verse seventeen there are three things there told about Moses, the shepherd. First, he watered the flock. Second, he protected the flock, and third, he guided the flock of Jethro his father-in-law. And how beautifully that pictures something of the good Shepherd's work of the Lord Jesus Christ. He leads us by still waters, and He protects us—"Thy rod and thy staff, they comfort me," then He leads us in the paths of righteousness.

The fifth one spoken of as the shepherd is David. There in I Samuel 17:34-36, just before he goes out to slay that great giant, Goliath, while he was being chided about being such a small fellow to go out against that great Philistine, and we read these words in the 34th, 35th, and 36th verses:

"And David said unto Saul, Thy servant kept his father's sheep, and there came a lion, and a bear, and took a lamb out of the flock:

"And I went out after him, and smote him, and delivered

it out of his mouth: and when he arose against me, I caught him by his beard, and smote him, and slew him.

"Thy servant slew both the lion and the bear: and this uncircumcised Philistine shall be as one of them, seeing he hath defied the armies of the living God."

And that was like the Lord Jesus Christ. He went into the very den, the lion's den and He took the roaring lion and He conquered the roaring lion, Satan, the prince of the power of the air, and the outstanding point is this, that David jeopardized his life for the sheep and Christ tasted death for every man.

The GOOD Shepherd

Next notice the little word *good*.

"I am the *good* shepherd." That word *good* means *choice* or *excellent*. That Christ was pre-eminently excellent, the outstanding Shepherd, infinitely elevated above all that had gone before Him, this portrayed here in the 10th chapter. So we could go on. Christ is the good Shepherd in contrast to the Pharisees, the cold, heartless shepherds. And then just this point before we come to the concluding point. The good Shepherd character of the Lord Jesus Christ is brought out in these verses as follows, and I love it, "And I know my sheep, and I am known of mine." I love those words. We have just a little inkling there of the inner relationship of the vine and the branches if you might speak of that in that way. "I know my sheep, and I am known of mine." Please note this, that *Christ knows His sheep*! Now the natural man, the unregenerated man, is spoken of as wolves or goats. False teachers are spoken of as wolves in sheep's clothing, having all the outward appearance of being a sheep, but God knows the thoughts and intents of the heart. And man looketh on the outward appearance but God looketh on the heart, and God knows His sheep. And you take those that are wolves in sheep's clothing, God will say to them some day, "I will profess unto them I never knew you; depart from me, ye that work iniquity. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, haven't we done this and done that in thy name. I will say unto them, depart from me, I never knew you." Now to be changed from a wolf into a sheep can only be done by a miracle of regeneration. You have to have a new nature, a new creation. I want to say this right here, every system of false religion that leaves out the blood, talks about a veneer for the outside, good works, but the heart has never been changed. Christ changes the heart and the shed blood cleanses their heart and you become a new creation in Christ Jesus, and you work from the inside out. And if you have a new heart you manifest to the world good works. He knows His sheep. I like that because He knows our weaknesses. He knows all about the things that you worry about, and you shouldn't worry. He knows all about the trials. He knows all about the testings. He knows all about the sins, and I am thankful tonight I can say to you, that we have a High Priest that can be touched with the feeling of our infirmities. He is not some one away off that cannot be touched by our weaknesses, but He was tested in all points like as we are, yet without sin, and He will not suffer you to be tested above that you are able, but will with the testing also provide a way of escape, that ye may be able to bear it.

And then He says further, "I am known of mine." Listen to me. The moment a man is born again, immediately that man becomes indwelt by the Holy Spirit. Listen carefully now. "If any man have not the Spirit of Christ He is none of His" (Rom. 8:9). You may be a church member, but if you do not have the Holy Spirit dwelling in your heart, you are not a member of the body of Christ. And you do not know Jesus Christ as your Shepherd. That is the test, and if you have the Spirit of Christ in your heart, the Holy Spirit, that Holy Spirit bears witness with your spirit, that you have passed from death unto life and that you are a new creation in Christ Jesus and the moment you have the indwelling Holy Spirit, you know what He does? That Holy Spirit takes

the things of Christ and reveals them unto you, and He leads you gently into the green pastures, always talking of Christ, never speaking of Himself. Day by day He leads you into the deeper things and you grow in grace and in knowledge of Christ. Then He goes on to say in the 8th chapter of Romans—there is the outstanding mark, we know when we are indwelt by the Holy Spirit for "As many as are led by the Spirit of God they are the sons of God." "O lead me gently home, Father."

I want to tell you something. We are all like sheep, we have gone astray. We have turned every one to our own way and you know we need to be guided, we need to be led gently home, and the Lord Jesus trod the path before and He knows all the paths in this wilderness, all the snares of the evil one, and He will lead you as the pillar of cloud by day and as the pillar of fire by night. Oh, you should be so the Holy Spirit would lead you, when He tells you to go you will go, when He tells you to stop you will stop, for "the steps of a righteous man are ordered."

The Good Shepherd Died for The Sheep

But in closing, and I am quickly getting to this point because it is the climax, the heart of all the message. The good Shepherd quality of Christ is brought out in verse 15 in these words, "As the Father knoweth me, even so know I the Father," and especially, "and I lay down my life for the sheep." Notice four things in the 10th chapter. Take a pencil and underline these four occurrences. In verse 11, "The good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep," verse 15, "I lay down my life for the sheep," verse 17, "I lay down my life that I might take it again," and verse 18, "No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of my Father." And the exact meaning of these words, "I lay down my life for the sheep," is beautifully brought out in the 5th chapter of Romans verses 6 to 8, "For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die. But God—" and whenever you find those two words coupled together in the Scriptures, "but God," you find an about face, a complete change. "But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." Turn to the 2nd chapter of Ephesians and find there your former state, "dead in trespasses and sins.... But God, who is rich in mercy," etc., a complete change, and so here in Romans, "But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."

Now notice Christ died for the ungodly. Christ died for us, and that word *for*, I want you to catch, I want you to catch this now. It means not merely on behalf of, but *in the stead of*. That is beautifully brought out in the life of Abraham and Isaac. You remember that beautiful story in Genesis how God commanded Abraham to take his son, Isaac, and to go up in the mountain and there sacrifice Isaac, his only beloved son, and you remember the story, how the altar was erected and wood was placed on the altar and Isaac was bound to the altar and Abraham raised the knife to slay his son when God stayed his hand, and then these words, "And Abraham lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold behind him a ram caught in a thicket by his horns: and Abraham went and took the ram, and offered him up for a burnt offering in the stead of his son." Yes sir, Christ died in my place and in my stead. Nineteen hundred years ago, God's beloved Son was rich, yet for my sake, He became poor that I, through His poverty, might be rich. I didn't deserve it. I deserved to be cast into Hell forever because of my sins. And you deserved the same thing. But the Lord Jesus went to the cross and there God caused to strike on Him your sin and my sin, and He became sin who knew no sin, that we might become the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus. And He did it in your stead and my stead. Now

that is the simplest form, that is the simplest statement of the gospel. Christ died for the ungodly. "I lay down my life for the sheep."

Let's bow our heads in prayer. We are closing just a little bit early to have a good old fashioned altar call tonight, an altar service, and the choir is going to sing in a little bit, "There is a Fountain filled with blood, drawn from Immanuel's veins. And sinners plunged beneath that flood, lose all their guilty stains."

Prayer: Our Father, Thou hast told us to preach the ministry of reconciliation and the message is, "Be ye reconciled to God in Christ Jesus," and the good Shepherd did lay down His life nineteen hundred years ago for the sin of the world, and He bare our sin in His own body on a tree and He died there in our stead. We pray that as we bring this hour to a close, this blessed hour of song has touched our hearts, and the message about the good Shepherd, that Thou wilt speak to those especially who have never heard the gospel before. They can never stand before Thee in judgment and say they have never heard the gospel because we have proclaimed that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures and that He was buried, that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures. And Father, we pray especially in Jesus' name that the Holy Spirit will speak to literally thousands of men and women, boys and girls, that they may see themselves before Thee naked, dead in trespasses and in sin. The wages of sin is death, but that Thou dost commend Thy love toward them and that Thou art not willing that any should perish, and they can never leave their radio this time and say that they have not heard the way of salvation. And we will give you the glory for we ask it in His name. Amen.

And as the chorus choir begins to sing, "There is a Fountain filled with blood, drawn from Immanuel's veins, and sinners plunged beneath that flood, lose all their guilty stain" will you just by faith come into that cleansing fountain right now?

And then this is the most important moment in the entire broadcast. We have sown the Word, we have preached the Word, we have presented Christ, the good Shepherd to you in this broadcast. I trust and pray that you will kneel right down by your radio and if you are unsaved and just look up into the face of the Good Shepherd and say to Him, "Lord, be merciful to me a sinner and save me for Christ's sake." Oh listen, make a decision, won't you, for time and eternity? Either it will be an eternity in outer darkness where there is weeping and gnashing of teeth, or it will be an eternity in Heaven with God the Father and God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. God is not willing that any should perish. So I pray you will open the door and let Christ, the good Shepherd come in and then you can sing these old songs out of an abundant heart and sing the praises of God!

My Decision for Christ

If you are a lost sinner and have read the above sermon by Evangelist Fuller, will you not here and now take Christ as your own Saviour and Good Shepherd and be saved today? If you will then write us at once and tell us so. You may write in your own words, or sign and mail the statement below.

Evangelist John R. Rice
512 West Franklin St.
Wheaton, Illinois.

Dear Brother Rice:

I have just read in *The Sword of the Lord* the sermon on "The Good Shepherd" by Evangelist Charles E. Fuller. I believe what Christ said, that He gave His life as a good Shepherd for His sheep, that He died in my place and paid for my sins. I believe that He loves me and is willing to forgive me. So here and now I give Christ my heart and trust Him to forgive my sins and save me. I take Him as my Saviour, my Lord, my Good Shepherd. I begin today, by His help, to try to live for Him.

Date

Signed

Address

500 TRACTS A YEAR FREE For Christian Workers

Any Christian applying to The Scripture Witness League for membership and will promise to prayerfully distribute no less than 500 tracts a year will receive free 500 assorted tracts postpaid free. The membership dues in the league is \$1.00 a year. Send for free samples today.

The Scripture Witness League
2011 Wellington Ave., Chicago, Ill.

Write for Print

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE)

bound, India paper, with all the Scofield notes, helps, maps, and with concordance. For the second best letter, we will give \$3.00 worth of the editor's books, one of each or your own selection. For the third best letter, we will give a large Cruden's Concordance, 8x11 inches, 618 pages, so you can find nearly any verse in the Bible if you know one principal word. The price is \$2.00. For each of the next twenty-five best letters, we will give one copy of the book, "And God Remembered..." which you may keep for yourself or send as a gift.

There are twenty-eight rewards or prizes. Each one will be given as an earned reward. We reserve the right to print any of the letters submitted in *The Sword of the Lord*. Choice ones will be printed.

Think what your letters will do: (1) They will help center the attention of thousands of people on the gospel and sound Christian reading. (2) You may be able to give your testimony, some blessing from God and some spiritual help, to thousands of readers. (3) *The Sword of the Lord* family will know each other better. (4) You may get one of the twenty-eight attractive and valuable prizes.

We hope that this contest will get thousands of new readers for the beautiful cloth bound, gold-jacketed book of favorite messages, "And God Remembered..." written by the editor. We printed 10,000 copies. In three months, nearly 3,000 copies have been already distributed. We believe that by encouraging a careful reading of this book, souls will be saved, Christians will dedicate themselves anew to God, and many precious Scriptural truths will become clear to the readers.

Your letters must be in the mail by Wednesday, October 1. The time is short. Prices will be announced near the middle of October, and letters will be printed as space affords.

If you have not read "And God Remembered..." you had better get your copy at once. Get the whole family to read it and get as many as will to pick out a favorite chapter and write the reason why they prefer that chapter. Talk it over at the dinner table and pray about it. Get any help you want in writing your letter. But do it soon, and pray that these testimonies will help get out the gospel to thousands of new readers.

The book "And God Remembered..." cloth bound, 128 pages, has the following sermons:

1. "And God Remembered..."
2. Tears in Heaven
3. "Behold the Man!"
4. "Where Is the Lord God of Elijah?"
5. The Exceeding Abundantly Able God
6. The Torn Veil

There are several illustrations drawn especially for this book by Mr. U. S. Abell, Christian cartoonist for Moody Monthly Magazine. The book has an expensive gold paper jacket with a picture illustrating Noah's ark and how God remembered Noah in the flood. The book sells for 50c a copy, five copies for \$2.00 postpaid. Order from The Sword of the Lord Publishers 512 West Franklin Street Wheaton, Illinois

Making Sermons

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE TWO)

that someone should pay for our sins.

Another simple verse that divides itself well up for preaching for a beginner is Psalm 116:8 which says: "For thou hast delivered my soul from death, mine eyes from tears, and my feet from falling." You could call the sermon SALVATION FROM SIN.

I. Saved from the penalty of sin, eternal death and Hell. "Thou hast delivered my soul from death."

II. Saved from the sorrow of sin. "Mine eyes from tears."

III. Saved daily from the power of sin. "My feet from falling."

You can divide Romans 6:23 up the same way. Try it and see. The main thing is to preach just what is in the Scripture. Then in every case, find other Scriptures throughout the Bible to prove the point, and then before you leave

How Felix Lost His Soul

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE)

would have a chance to preach. I'll tell you, preachers ought to preach when it is hard, and you that are not preachers ought to have the grace of God to preach it in your work and where people do not want to hear you. I say, still preach it. Paul did with his arms bound by two chains, and with a soldier on either side of him Paul preached Christ.

Paul Preached About "Righteousness, Temperance and Judgment To Come"

And then I want you to notice Paul's sermon. Paul preached to this one man. Now this wasn't a general congregation. Paul wasn't preaching in general—"as it were" and "one might say," etc. Paul was just saying, "Felix, this is so about you." "Paul reasoned with him concerning righteousness, temperance, and judgment to come."

Now the Scripture says in verse 24 that Felix heard him concerning the faith in Christ. And as he reasoned of righteousness, temperance and judgment to come, Felix trembled. Concerning the faith in Christ, Paul talked to him about righteousness. Now in Felix' case there would be two kinds of righteousness Paul would have to talk to him about. One, the kind Felix didn't have of his own because Felix was a wicked man, and the other the righteousness of Christ. He said, "Felix, you are a sinner. You know you are a wicked sinner and you are going to Hell if you don't get righteous and the only righteousness that will do any good is the righteousness of Christ." He preached to him on the sin question. And I'll tell you right now, that all preaching is vain that does not start on the sin question. Sometimes people say, "Well, if you get the Son question settled, you will get the sin question settled." I answer back that that may be true, but nobody will want the Son if they don't know they are sinners and nobody will ever get saved who isn't conscious that he is a poor, wicked, Hell-deserving sinner. If he isn't guilty of sin, he doesn't need a Saviour. Preachers ought to begin where Paul began. Not only with Felix but with every other sinner, Paul began on the sin question and we ought to do it. A lot of you people don't win souls. You palaver around and lay it on smooth and soft. What you need is to face men with the fact that they are wicked sinners in their hearts. They may be outrageous sinners or they may be smooth, nice, white-washed sinners, but they are the same kind of wicked Hell-deserving and Hell-bound sinners that have ever lived on this earth. Paul reasoned with him on the question of righteousness. And then he reasoned concerning

that point, you had better illustrate it well. Illustrations from the Bible and from your own experience are better than any others.

Nothing has weight like the Bible itself. Use many Scriptures. But depend not on just the letter, but meditate and pray over them until they bless your own heart until you are profoundly moved. If God does not move your heart, then you cannot move others.

It is well to write out your outline in full. Sometimes it would pay you to make several pages in preparation. But when you go to speak, you should have your material so well in mind that you would only need to follow the thing you could put on a half page of paper, I think.

And as the Holy Spirit leads, feel free to leave your notes or to cut off short if they are leading you to speak too long. Later you will learn to follow them more carefully. But do not grieve the Spirit nor quench Him. Let Him have His way, and press for results for God.

I suggest you might like "How to Prepare Sermons," a book by William Evans, 173 pages, price \$1.25, cloth bound.

I suggest that you just live with the Bible—read, read, read, meditate and pray. Get a concordance and find everything in the Bible on the subject you are studying.

I thank you for your letter and hope these suggestions will be helpful.

temperance. Now evidently this man drank too much and he was immoderate about his drinking, or immoderate about his temper or he was immoderate about his extravagant living and his eating and his spending of money, etc. So Paul said "I will just talk to you about your intemperance in such matters, your intemperance in the way you drink, your intemperance in the way you talk, etc." And he reasoned with him concerning temperance. Some people say, "I don't believe in preachers getting in politics." Well, incidentally if it is politics to preach about liquor and temperance, I still say I was free, white and twenty-one and wore pants before I was a preacher and I had just as much right to think on political matters as the bootleggers have and as all the Communists have, and as all the subversive elements have, and I did not lose that. I am still a man if I am a preacher. I am a citizen if I am a preacher, and I ought to take sides and I am going to do it.

Somebody says, "Well, you will hurt somebody's feelings." Then they need their feelings hurt. Somebody said to Billy Sunday, "Billy, you rub the cat's fur the wrong way." He said, "Let the cat turn around." I'll tell you now, preachers don't need to set out to say, "I am just going to walk a chalk line here, keep off this man's toes and off this man's toes, and I will never hurt anybody's feelings." I'll tell you, a preacher has no business not taking sides on moral issues, and if he does, he is a coward and a shirker and a slacker and a quitter and a fourflusher. He is not fit to be in the pulpit. People say when I get on the booze question, "Oh, I would leave that to somebody else." I won't do it. No, sir! Paul preached to him concerning temperance, and I will, too. Temperance. "Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging; whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise." Ah, how much there is in the Bible on the booze question, on the adultery question, and on other matters of intemperance and enslavement in sin and preachers ought to crack down on them.

A lot of you preachers who spend all your time preaching God is love and preach John 3:16—how blessed it is, and how I love to preach it, too, but you preachers spend all your time in the book of Ephesians, all your time on these matters of grace. If you would get out and preach a while on the Ten Commandments and on the wrath of God and the judgment to come, you would have conviction, you would have crowds, and you would have conversions, too. Somebody says, "Brother Rice, I'm afraid somebody would leave my church." No doubt they would and you might have to leave yourself. Somebody says, "I am afraid they wouldn't bring in the money for the salary." You might lose a few dollars. I say brother, that's right, you may! And if that is what you are preaching for, then I say, you poor sissy, then you had better get out of the ministry and get out to some business that doesn't take a man in it. But I'll tell you now, if you lose a friend, John the Baptist lost his head, and Paul had his cut off after a while, and Stephen was stoned to death and other men were sawn asunder and others were burned at the stake and others lived in sheep's skins and goat's skins in the caves of the mountains that they might have a better resurrection. And we need some men in the pulpit these days who hate sin and say so! Paul said it. Paul said it to Felix to his face. Just like John the Baptist said to Herod, "You have no business living in adultery with your brother's wife. It is a sin and you ought not to do it." Preachers ought to do that kind of preaching. Paul did.

Felix Trembled!

I want you to notice next that Felix trembled. I'll tell you, my friends, these days people don't tremble much when preachers preach. These days people don't tremble much when personal workers talk. These days it isn't like it was when Charles G. Finney went to a great mill, and a girl at the loom first laughed and then she was stricken and her lips quivered and then she fell and began to weep and then another and another, and finally the boss said, "Stop the mill. It's time for a prayer meeting.

We can do something else later on." People were so concerned and convicted at the glance of that man of God. Felix trembled when Paul preached. Oh, for a personal definiteness, an alarming, insulting personal kind of preaching that makes people tremble! God give it to us! God give it to us, so it will be like Herod feared John the Baptist and never got away from it and he said when he heard Christ, "It is John! He's risen from the dead. I see his haunting face every time I try to sleep. It must be John the Baptist raised from the dead!" And so Felix trembled. We need again the kind of preaching that makes people tremble about judgment and about Hell. We need the kind of personal work and preaching like that of Jonathan Edwards when he preached on "Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God," and men held on to their seats and clutched to the benches before them and trembled and wondered if they were not sliding into Hell! We need that kind of preaching. "Felix trembled."

I remember in Binghamton, New York, in a union campaign in 1936, when I gave an appeal for Christ one night in that theatre seating 2,200. There was a great crowd on that zero weather night. I can remember one man stood back yonder and when a shoe factory foreman, Mr. Gregory, talked to him about his soul, he suddenly trembled and sweat broke out on his forehead and he wiped his face and suddenly he slumped over, fainted dead away. They carried him outside in the cold night air and revived him, and when he got back to his senses he said, "Take me back, take me back! I've got to do it tonight. I'll go to Hell if I can't do it tonight. God says this is the last chance. Take me back." The service was over, but they brought him back to the wings of the theater and there he told me he must trust Christ tonight!

People ought to tremble. God give us who are saved an urgency and a boldness and an authority in our work until men will tremble over sin and the judgment of God. We need that kind of teaching and preaching, and oh, we need that kind of power. May God help people to tremble.

You know if there is a little excitement people don't like it. No, they don't like excitement in religion. Excitement is all right in war, but we don't want it in religion. Excitement is all right if the baby has a splinter in his finger, but if souls go to Hell, don't get excited! Excitement is all right if your son is playing college football. My, oh my, how many times I have yelled until I was hoarse. I played college football and got my nose broke, bled all over everybody I tackled and went on, didn't have a substitute for my place. They didn't take me out. I would have cried with a broken heart if they had. That's all right in football, but if he is going to Hell, let him go; don't anybody get excited! That is a strange kind of a doctrine! Some of these churches I go to for revival campaigns, oh, they are so shocked if I sit down when I preach or walk up and down the aisles, or if I stop and sing or if I laugh, or if I stop and pray. It is a shocking thing to break the cold, dead quietness of the tomb in the modern church they think. But I'll tell you now, my friends, we'd better get it broken. This world is going to Hell and if we don't care about it and we don't tremble in our own souls, then sinners are not going to tremble either and are not going to be converted. We need again an urgency of soul about the people who are lost. You had better hear me!

Somebody says, "Well, Brother Rice, you can't scare me." Maybe I can't. Maybe I can't, my friend, but that doesn't prove you have any sense. There is plenty to be scared about. You are going to die without God. Felix trembled when Paul reasoned with him. He trembled and people ought to tremble today.

But Felix Lost His Soul by Awaiting "A More Convenient Day"

Then I want you to notice the next thing. This man said, "Well, Paul, you nearly got me!" He said, "Paul, I want to hear you again about this matter. When it comes a more convenient season I'm going to settle it, too." And he sent

Paul away. He heard him again and again, but he never settled it. A convenient season! Let me tell you right now, there is never a convenient season but one, and that is now. The Bible says, "Today is the day of salvation." The devil always says, "The preacher is right but don't do it now. The preacher is right but first you want a good time. That is right, you ought to be a Christian. Sure, you are going to be some day, aren't you? But don't be in a hurry about it, don't let them rush you about it." So says the devil. The devil says, "Some other time when you think it over," but the Holy Ghost says, "Today." I'll tell you there is just one time to be saved and that is now. "Behold, now is the accepted time: behold, now is the day of salvation" (II Cor. 6:2). The Scripture says, "Seek ye the Lord while he may be found, call ye upon Him while He is near" (Isa. 55:6).

There is a lie that has gotten out that people believe, but it is false. The devil has told people they can be saved anytime they get ready, and a lot of preachers have left it to be understood that way, but it is wrong, it is false, it is not true. No, no. The Bible never says you can be saved when you get ready. When you say, "At my convenience, Lord, at my convenience, I'm going to be saved," you are heading for Hell. Brother, you are going to be saved God's time or you are not going to be saved. The Scripture says, "Seek ye the Lord while He may be found." Then there will be a time when you won't find Him. You had better reach Him while your heart is tender. There will be a time that it is as hard as stone. You reach Him while you are convicted. There will be a time when you are not convicted. Oh, people go to Hell by saying, "Lord, you come at my choice, you come when I take a notion to call you. Lord, you do this thing on my terms." He will not do it. What God wants is a *wholesale unconditional surrender* now. This moment turn your poor wicked heart from sin and trust in Christ. You are not going to be saved at the time of your own sinful choice. No, a more convenient time never did come. He was almost persuaded but he was lost. Somebody hears me and you tremble, too, but you are going to Hell unless you come now while God deals with you. *A convenient time never comes.*

Who is there who hears me on the radio today and will say, "Bro. Rice, I'm a sinner, and I know it. Like Felix I feel guilty and my heart trembles. Too long I have waited for a more convenient time; and I have found, like Felix, that it never came. I don't want to lose my soul like Felix did, so here and now I come to Christ; I trust Him as my Saviour; I give Him my heart forever." If you will do it, write us today and tell us so.

My Decision for Christ

The above message was given on the radio, and I trust God used it to save souls. If you, dear reader, see yourself a sinner, won't you turn to Christ today and be saved? Today is God's time. Do it now! Get your sins forgiven, get your heart changed, get your soul saved. All that is yours the moment you trust Christ with all your heart, depending upon Him alone to keep you out of Hell and take you to Heaven.

If you will honestly trust Christ, will you write and tell me so? To make it easy I give the following form which you may copy or sign, or clip out, if you prefer, or better yet, write your own letter.

Evangelist John R. Rice, Editor
The Sword of the Lord
512 W. Franklin Street
Wheaton, Illinois.

Dear Brother Rice:

I have just read your sermon on "How Felix Lost His Soul." I realize I am a lost sinner and I have been guilty of waiting for a more convenient day, when the Holy Spirit says today. Here and now I surrender my heart to Christ and I trust Him to forgive me and save me as He promised to do; and I write this to let you know. By His grace I will claim Him openly and try to live for Him.

Date _____

Signed _____

Address _____